

and volunteers—from researchers and health care providers to teachers, therapists, and engineers. Utilizing state-of-the-art technologies and techniques, these professionals and volunteers are helping determined individuals to achieve their dreams of greater freedom and independence—including productive, satisfying jobs and careers. Thus, while the ADA opens doors of opportunity for persons with disabilities, rehabilitation offers the means by which many will be able to pass through them.

Because rehabilitation cultivates one's potential for personal and economic autonomy and advancement, it not only enriches the lives of Americans with disabilities but also enables our entire Nation to benefit from their knowledge, creativity, and skills. Thanks, in large part, to rehabilitative programs and services, persons with disabilities are attaining positions of leadership and responsibility throughout American society: in government and business, in science and education—wherever there is an opportunity or a need. The accomplishments of Americans who have benefitted from rehabilitation are the catalyst for continuing efforts to develop a wider array of rehabilitative services and to promote improved coordination among human services agencies in both the public and private sectors.

In honor of Americans with disabilities who are achieving their goals through rehabilitation and in recognition of the professionals and volunteers who serve in this important field, the Congress, by Public Law 102-362, has designated the week of September 13 through September 19, 1992, as "National Rehabilitation Week" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of September 13 through September 19, 1992, as National Rehabilitation Week. I encourage all Americans to observe this week with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6468 of September 2, 1992

National Hispanic Heritage Month, 1992

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Our Nation's Hispanic heritage is celebrated with an especially deep sense of pride during this 500th anniversary year of Christopher Columbus' first journey to the Americas. Today we celebrate a rich, diverse heritage that traces back to places as far-flung as Mexico and Peru. The Columbus Quincentenary thus provides a fitting historical perspective as we set aside this month in honor of the many outstanding contributions that persons of Spanish and Latin American descent have made to the United States.

While our Nation's history bears ample evidence of our Hispanic heritage, we cannot view that great heritage solely in terms of the past. Rather, it is a living legacy. Over the years Hispanic Americans have continued to take part in the social and economic development of the United States and in the defense of the ideals that unite all of our citizens. In this century alone, thousands of Hispanic Americans have answered the call to duty in places such as Bataan, Da Nang, and the Persian Gulf. Today persons of Spanish and Latin American descent are also demonstrating their love of freedom by reaping the rewards of opportunity and hard work. In the past decade, the number of Hispanic-owned businesses has increased by more than 80 percent. As always, Hispanic Americans are also contributing to our Nation through its very foundation: the family. Together with the support of their churches and communities, millions of Hispanic American families are preserving the traditional values on which our great Republic rests: values of faith, duty, devotion to friends and relatives, and respect and concern for others. As the 20-million-strong Hispanic American community continues to grow, these and other contributions to our country are sure to increase as well.

Because many Hispanic Americans maintain strong personal ties to the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean, this month we also celebrate the United States' growing partnership with our neighbors in the region. The expansion of democratic ideals in this hemisphere has enhanced cooperation and security throughout the Americas, and U.S. exports to Latin American countries have more than tripled since 1983, creating thousands of jobs and opportunities for our citizens. Through the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, the United States is working with our Latin American and Caribbean neighbors to promote mutually beneficial progress in the areas of trade and investment. The achievement of a North American Free Trade Agreement, which Hispanic American organizations across the country are helping accomplish, will mark a major milestone in our efforts to expand markets for U.S. goods and services. As Hispanic Americans well know, by creating in this hemisphere a thriving market of some 360,000,000 consumers, we will generate hundreds of thousands of new jobs and opportunities.

Just as they have contributed so much to our Nation in the past, Hispanic Americans are now helping to lead the United States toward a bright future—one marked by opportunity and prosperity for every citizen here at home and by increasing cooperation and freedom throughout the hemisphere.

The Congress, by Joint Resolution approved September 17, 1968, as amended by Public Law 100-402, has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating the month beginning September 15 and ending October 15 as "National Hispanic Heritage Month."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month beginning September 15, 1992, and ending October 15, 1992, as National Hispanic Heritage Month. I invite all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-

two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6469 of September 3, 1992

Childhood Cancer Month, 1992

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

This year nearly 8,000 American children will be diagnosed as having cancer. Such a diagnosis affects not only the young patient but also his or her entire family. Parents experience tremendous anguish knowing that their child is ailing or in pain. Brothers and sisters often share in that heartache, as well as in fears of the unknown. Daily life may be turned upside down for many months; for some, it may never be the same. As an expression of our concern for young cancer patients and their families, we set aside this month to reaffirm our support of continuing research and education.

Thanks to the many advances that have been made in cancer research, the majority of children who are diagnosed with cancer today will be alive and healthy 5 years from now. Indeed, the number of deaths from childhood cancers continues to drop as improved diagnostic and prognostic techniques, along with important breakthroughs in treatment, give hope to young people with leukemia, Wilm's tumor, Hodgkin's disease, and other cancers.

Such progress is testimony to the vitality of American science and to the contributions of the brave young patients who participate in clinical studies of new anti-cancer treatments. In recent years doctors have learned that bone marrow transplantation, which enables a child to receive very high doses of anti-cancer drugs, is an effective way of treating some types of leukemia. With this and other new techniques, nearly three-fourths of all children who are diagnosed as having leukemia can look forward to a complete cure. The treatment of Hodgkin's disease is yet another example of progress: today some 87 percent of children who are diagnosed as having this cancer of the lymphatic system can expect to be cured.

While these and other scientific advances are encouraging, they are but a part of the story of our increasing success in the fight against childhood cancer. This month, as we recognize the outstanding physicians and scientists who conduct pediatric cancer research in both the public and private sectors, we also honor the dedicated oncology nurses and social workers who comfort and assist young patients, the teachers and therapists who foster their intellectual and physical potential, and the many volunteers who provide family support groups, special camping and recreation facilities, and other helpful programs and services. Inspired by the extraordinary courage and optimism of young cancer patients, all of these Americans are making important contributions to the fight against childhood cancer. Their efforts merit our admiration and support.